

Germantown Academy  
Greene Street & School House Lane  
Germantown, Philadelphia, Penna.

HABS No. 7-4  
HABS  
PA  
51-GERM,  
33-

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 7  
Eastern Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Perot Bissell, District Officer  
1901 Architects Building,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

HABS  
PA.

51-GERM

33

GERMANTOWN ACADEMY  
Green Street and School House Lane  
Germantown, Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania

Owner: Board of Trustees of Germantown Academy.

Date of Erection: 1760.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and cellar.

Materials of Construction: Stone.

Other Existing Records: See text.<sup>1</sup>

Additional Data: See following pages.

<sup>1</sup> See also the following references:

Wallace P.B. and Dunn, W.A., Colonial Ironwork in Old Philadelphia, 146.

Lippincott, H.M., Early Philadelphia, Its People, Life and Progress, 202.

GERMANTOWN ACADEMY  
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

The Germantown Academy stands at the southwest corner of Greene Street and School House Lane. It was founded January 1, 1760, and was opened August 11, 1761.

The Academy was originally called the Germantown Union Schoolhouse and was built "for the use of English and high Dutch or German schools and to be continued for that use and no other forever". Except for the period from 1778 to 1784, the School has continued in use to this day. The two small structures at either end of the main building originally housed the English and German masters.

After the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, the building was used as a hospital.

In 1793, yellow fever became epidemic in the City, and Congress having expressed the desire to know whether they could be accommodated, the building was promptly offered, but the epidemic subsided and Congress met in Philadelphia.

In 1798, yellow fever was again prevalent and applications were received in September from the banks of Pennsylvania and North America for the use of the cellar and first floor. The schools were at once dismissed and the request granted. The banks returned to the City in November.

In 1834, the old bell was re-cast. It was cast in London in 1773 and weighed 284 pounds. It was sent to this country in one of the tea ships, and the tea ship not being permitted to land, the bell was returned to London. It was brought back in 1784 soon after the peace with Great Britain. The bell was cast by Lewis Debozear in Philadelphia with the metal from the old bell and a small addition of new and weighs 310 pounds.

Many changes have taken place through the passing of the years, and the old school building and the two little masters' houses have not gone unscathed. Alterations have been made sadly at variance with the original architecture and many new buildings have been added, but the old buildings still stand out and dominate the group. It is to be hoped that regard and sentiment for this monument of our early days will keep it safe from further molestation.

The above account is from the "History of the Germantown Academy, compiled from the Minutes of the Trustees from 1760 to 1877" by Rev. William Travis, 1882.

*E. Perot Beasly*

District Officer.

*Reviewed 1936 by A.C.F.*

Addendum to  
Germantown Academy  
(Germantown Union School)  
110 Schoolhouse Lane  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-7-4

HABS  
PA  
51-GERM,  
33-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240